in the economic cost and freeze on the Central Issue Prices (CIPs), food subsidy bill has gone up.

(c) Some of the important initiatives along with resultant savings in cost of the FCI during 2003-04 and 2004-05 are as follows:—

(Rs. in crore)

Sl.No.	Steps taken	Savings
2003-2004		
1.	De-hiring of storage capacity	39.00
2.	Reduction of interest rate on Cash Credit from 10.95% monthly compounding to 9.35% monthly compounding for 3 months	111.00
	TOTAL	150.00
2004-2005		
1.	Reduction of interest rate on Cash Credit from 10.95% monthly compounding to 8.15% monthly compounding	767.50
2.	Saving of interest due to release of advance subsidy on quarterly basis instead of monthly basis.	112.50
3.	Issue of bonds for Rs. 4023 crores a average coupon rate of 7.14%	6.23
4.	Other fiscal measures taken for streamlining financial operations	29.30
	TOTAL	915.73

Consumer participation for regulatory reforms

1084 SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether all regulatory laws and arrangements recognize consumer interest but the same is not as effective as it should be due to lack of consumer advocacy; and

(b) the steps Government have taken or propose to take to improve consumer participation for effective regulatory reforms?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) and (b) The Department of Consumer Affairs administers the following regulatory Acts:-

- The Consumer Protection Act, 1986;
- The Standards of Weights and Measures Act, 1976;
- The Standards of Weights and Measures (Enforcement) Act, 1985;
- The Bureau of Indian Standards Act, 1986;
- The Essential Commodities Act, 1955;
- The Prevention of Black Marketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980;
- The Forward Contract (Regulation) Act, 1952;
- The Emblems and Names (Prevention of Improper Use) Act, 1950;
- The Spirituous Preparation (Inter-State Trade and Commerce) Control Act, 1955;

All the above Acts are for promotion of consumer interest. In addition, the Department has initiated a number of steps to promote a responsible and responsive consumer movement in the country. Such measures include the use of multi-media for promoting consumer awareness and encouraging consumer's involvement through efforts of Government and non-Government organizations and others.

Fund for consumer advocacy activities

1085. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI HARISH RAWAT:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether most regulatory laws in India have provisions for a fund to promote the purpose and object of the law but this has never been used to support consumer advocacy activities; and

(b) the steps Government propose to take to make the fund operational for consumer engagement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) The Department of Consumer Affairs administer the following Acts:

- The Consumer Protection Act, 1986;
- The Standards of Weights and Measures Act, 1976;
- The Standards of Weights and Measures (Enforcement) Act, 1985;